

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

tribute among the voters. These expenses, it was publicly claimed, would be refunded to the deputies during the two-year tenure in the parliament. This would come about through various intercessions with government departments in favor of their business-minded clients. Toward the end of the election period one of the papers stated bluntly: "The newly elected deputies are not representatives of the nation. They have been elected either by bribery or through the intervention of the authorities." <sup>5</sup> Another paper added somewhat later: "In Iran the personality of the candidate plays a greater role than his program." <sup>6</sup>

When the parliament was finally elected at the beginning of 1944, it differed from the former in one important respect. It seated a bloc of eight Communist deputies who knew what they wanted and who behaved like a disciplined group. The rest of the deputies, 60 per cent of whom were new and 40 per cent re-elected, divided themselves into a majority and a minority, the latter being led by Dr. Mosaddeq. Yet neither the majority nor the minority could be regarded as fixed in character, for a marked instability in their composition prevailed. This, in turn, resulted in instability of the cabinets, which could never count upon consistent and prolonged support of any parliamentary majority. To be sure, there were voices demanding reform of the chaotic situation in the parliament. The daily *Kushesh* of April 18, 1944, for example, published an article under the title "Parliamentary Debates and the Need for Reform" in which it drew attention to the fact that the lack of crystallized political parties in Iran created confusion in the Majlis and prevented

the creation of a stable majority. *Etella'at*, a paper of moderate tone and wide circulation, also appealed for the creation of blocs within the Majlis that could be distinguished and identified in terms of the positions they would espouse on various issues.<sup>7</sup>

Soon after the election of the new Majlis the following groups were formed among the deputies: *Ettefaq* ("Unity"), *Melli* ("National"), *Mihan* ("Fatherland"), *Iran*, Democratic, and Independent. These were not, however, stable groups in that their membership was of

s *Mihan Parestan*, Dec. 19, 1943.  
« *Ettelctat*, April 33, 1944.  
fezd.

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